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at all, was washed into this old lake-bed after fossilization had taken place, and may be all of the animal that was preserved.

I might also add, that Mr. M. Saylor, during last summer, explored the banks of the Wakarusa for some ten or twelve miles by boat; his explorations only confirmed our own previously made, and added considerably to our previous collection of unfossilized bones.

This lake-bed in which the mastodon jaw was found is about twenty-five feet below the present surface of ground. Whatever fossil treasures are in this locality we can not now determine; but so many bones have already been found that we already speak of it as the Bone-bed of the Wakarusa.

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### A FOSSIL TUSK, FOUND IN FRANKLIN COUNTY.

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By Prof. Wm. Wheeler, Ottawa.

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Sometime during the spring or early summer of 1878, a farmer, living on Eight-Mile Creek, in Franklin county, observed a curious looking root or snag protruding from the bank of the creek; and upon examining it, he concluded that it must be the fossil tusk of some gigantic animal. He thereupon dug it from the bank, and took it to Ottawa, leaving it in the office of the Ottawa Republican. The writer of this examined the fossil at the time, but not being an expert in such matters, he did not give a decided opinion upon its character, but inclined to the opinion that it was petrified wood. A piece of the thing was sent, by the writer, to Prof. F. H. Snow, of the State University, who, after careful examination, pronounces it "fossil ivory." It is, therefore, without doubt, the tusk of a gigantic mastodon.

In taking the tusk from the gravelly bank in which it was buried, two or three feet of the larger end was broken off, and the smaller end, for perhaps three feet, was not procured. The part saved measured fifty inches in length, and six inches in diameter at the larger end, three and a half inches at the smaller end. The whole tusk must, therefore, have been ten or twelve feet long.

The accompanying diagram represents the appearance of the ends when sawed square off. The appearance is very much that of the end of a small log or root, with some of the lines of growth obliterated. At these apparent lines of growth the fossil splits into layers, varying in thickness from a quarter of an inch to an inch. These layers break into short pieces, which easily crumble into irregular fragments. The appearance of the substance of the fossil is very much like that of a bone that has been boiled in lye, in the process of soap making; and the consistency is very much that of soft-soap-stone. Between the layers there is a thin film of rust color, seemingly produced by oxyd of iron.

A few years ago the tooth of a mastodon was found near the mouth of the same creek, five or six miles below where this tusk was found. The rest of the skeleton is probably somewhere along the bed or banks of the creek.